



Public Notice

Joint Public Meeting on June 12, 2007, and Comment Period, on Plans for Waste Management at Emerald Services, Inc.

Emerald Services, Inc., Tacoma

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The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology), City of Tacoma (Tacoma), and Emerald Services, Inc. (Emerald) are announcing a joint public meeting on Emerald's plans to continue and expand operations for managing dangerous waste at their facility in the Tacoma Tide Flat area.

Emerald's plans trigger three closely related public processes before they submit the actual permit application. The processes are: 1) Notice of intent (NOI), 2) Siting Criteria, and 3) Citizen Proponent Negotiations (CPN). Ecology, Tacoma, and Emerald want to provide information to the public and get public input on Emerald's plans through these three processes.

Public Review

You can review information on the NOI, Siting Criteria, and CPN between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at one of the following locations:

**Department of Ecology
Hazardous Waste & Toxics Reduction Program
300 Desmond Drive
Lacey, Washington 98503
Contact:**

Kerry Graber at 360-407-0241
(kgra461@ecy.wa.gov) or

Martin Werner at 360-407-6710
(mwer461@ecy.wa.gov)

**Emerald Services, Inc
1825 Alexander Avenue,
Tacoma, Washington 98421
Contact:**

Sheila Smith at 206-832-3204

**Tacoma Public Library, Main Branch
1102 Tacoma Avenue South
Tacoma, WA 98402**

Public Meeting

Ecology, Tacoma, and Emerald will conduct a joint public meeting from 7:00 to 9:00 pm on June 12, 2007, at the following location:

LaQuinta Inn – Oak Room
1425 E. 27th Street
Tacoma, WA 98421-2200
(The LaQuinta Inn is in Fife one block off I-5 exit #135 (Portland Ave))

The meeting will start at 7:00 pm with an open house. Then, beginning at 7:30 pm, there will be short presentations on each of three processes:

1. 7:30–7:40 Proposed facility expansion and information in Emerald's Notice of Intent (NOI) by Emerald Services, Inc. staff.
2. 7:40–7:50 Purpose of the Siting Criteria process and Ecology's tentative decision to approve Emerald's "Demonstration of Compliance" by Department of Ecology staff.
3. 7:50-8:00 Purpose and procedures of Citizen Proponent Negotiation (CPN) Process by City of Tacoma and Department of Ecology staff.

Members of the public can ask questions or make comments after these short presentations.

The informal open house will resume after the presentations and last until 9:00 pm. You can ask questions or discuss any aspect of the project with individual staff from Ecology, Tacoma, and Emerald during the open house. You can also submit written comments at any time during the meeting.

Public Processes

Notice of Intent (NOI)

Emerald wants to significantly expand their operations under a renewed permit. The proposed expansion is explained in the NOI and includes:

- Using three existing concrete pads at the facility to store an additional 16,610 gallons of waste in containers.

- Converting six existing product storage tanks to waste management tanks to store an additional 39,600 gallons of wastes in tanks.
- Replacing these six tanks with larger tanks to store an additional 30,400 gallons of wastes in the future.

Emerald's proposed expansion does not include different waste management practices. It will allow the company to manage increased wastes quantities more efficiently.

Emerald will explain their expansion proposal during the public meeting discussed above.

Siting Criteria

Because Emerald is proposing a significant expansion, they must explain how the facility complies with siting criteria (called "demonstration of compliance"). Emerald has two ways to satisfy siting criteria:

1. Comply with all relevant setbacks.
2. Provide a "net increase in protection to human health and the environment" at their expanded operations.

Emerald does not meet every setback, so they can not use the first option. Emerald has satisfied Ecology that their expanded operations will result in a net increase in protection to human health and the environment. Therefore, Ecology has tentatively decided to approve the demonstration of compliance.

Ecology welcomes your comments on this tentative decision. The comment period runs from May 10th until June 25, 2007. Please submit comments by mail or email to:

Martin Werner, Permit Writer
Department of Ecology
Hazardous Waste & Toxics Reduction
Program
PO Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600
360-407-6710
mwer461@ecy.wa.gov

Ecology will make its final decisions on the siting criteria after considering all public comments.

Approving the demonstration of compliance with the siting criteria is an initial step in the comprehensive permit renewal process. Later, Emerald will submit a detailed permit application that addresses all aspects of their waste management. Ecology will make a tentative permit decision based on that permit application. The public will have other opportunities to review information and make comments during the permitting process.

NOI and CPN do not have formal comment periods. Please attend the public meeting discussed above if you want to have input on those processes.

Citizen Proponent Negotiation (CPN)

CPN is a special negotiation process between local governments, citizens, and the dangerous waste management facility. CPN addresses issues of local concern that are beyond the scope of the established permitting process.

For the Emerald facility, Tacoma is the CPN lead government. This means Tacoma will decide whether to pursue CPN after the first public meeting. They will consider public input and interest on CPN expressed during that meeting.

CPN is optional for both Tacoma and Emerald. Both parties have to agree to continue CPN for the process to go beyond the first meeting.

Tacoma and Ecology will provide additional information on CPN and the public can comment on the process during the public meeting discussed above.

Facility Location and Background

The Emerald dangerous waste management facility is located at 1825 Alexander Avenue, Tacoma, Washington. Emerald has owned and operated this facility since May 2000. They bought the facility from Sol Pro, Inc. Emerald operates the facility under conditions of a dangerous waste permit that will expire on May 23, 2009.

Emerald manages dangerous waste from other industries at their Tacoma Facility. They recycle contaminated organic solvents and antifreeze so those materials can be reused. They also blend organic wastes for fuels used at other industrial facilities. Emerald stores wastes in containers and tanks. They have blending tanks for fuels and several distillation units to recycle contaminated solvents and antifreeze.

If you need this information in an alternate format, please call the Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program at 360-407-6700. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341.